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For more information and downloadable images, visit:

<http://constitutioncenter.org/press-room/press-kit/exhibition-press-kits/slavery-at-jeffersons-monticello-press-kit>

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**NEW EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER
 EXPLORES LIFE AT THOMAS JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO
 THROUGH THE EYES OF HIS SLAVES**

Philadelphia, PA – A new exhibition at the National Constitution Center, ***Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello***, follows the powerful stories of six enslaved families who lived and worked at Thomas Jefferson's plantation and their descendants who helped bring to light their ancestors' lives and values, through personal artifacts and oral history. On view at the Constitution Center from **April 9 – October 19, 2014**, *Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello* is organized by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello in partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

"As a result of Jefferson's assiduous record-keeping, augmented by fifty years of modern scholarly research, Monticello is the best documented, best preserved, and best studied plantation in North America," said Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, through a provided statement. "Through our partnership, Monticello and NMAAHC have created a unique opportunity to discuss slavery as the unresolved issue of the American Revolution and to offer Jefferson and Monticello as a window into the unfulfilled promise of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' We are pleased that the exhibition is now opening at the National Constitution Center, which will provide new opportunities for dialogue about this complex chapter in American history."

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ADD ONE/SLAVERY AT JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO

“Understanding the details of the lives of enslaved people adds to our understanding of history, and our understanding of race relations today. We cannot have a clear view of Jefferson, or the founding of our nation, if we leave slavery out of the story,” said Lonnie Bunch, director of the NMAAHC, also via a provided statement.

The 3,500-square-foot exhibition features over 280 objects, including:

- Thomas Jefferson’s own possessions including his inkwell in the shape of Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire; his silver eyeglasses, made in Philadelphia in 1806; and his whalebone, ivory, and gold walking stick.
- A replica of the portable desk Jefferson used to draft the Declaration of Independence.
- Numerous excavated artifacts that offer a window into life on Mulberry Row, where Monticello slaves lived and worked such as rare coins, ceramics and tableware, shoe and clothing buckles, combs, and toothbrush handles.

The exhibition concludes with a section devoted to the [Getting Word](#) oral history project, which began at Monticello in 1993. Over 180 interviews were conducted with descendants of the families who lived and worked at the plantation. Visitors can watch a powerful three-minute video of highlights from those interviews.

“This exhibition does an impressive job in the telling of an important and conflicted chapter in the story of ‘We the People,’” said National Constitution Center Chief Operating Officer Vince Stango. “Thomas Jefferson was a revered leader and drafter of the Declaration of Independence, yet he was a slaveholder. *Slavery at Jefferson’s Monticello* will provide a unique entry point for our visitors who can then tour our main exhibition to follow where the story leaves off, learning more specifically about the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, which were added to the Constitution in an effort to establish equality.”

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ADD TWO/SLAVERY AT JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO

A special iPod tour will be offered to visitors as a complement to the exhibition. Narrated by Susan Stein, Monticello's Richard Gilder Senior curator and vice president of Museum Programs, the tour features personal anecdotes from Stein about the exhibition's research and development, further background on the objects and stories featured in the exhibition, and the importance of preserving the past for future generations.

Visitors also will have an opportunity to view a rare printing of the Declaration of Independence while visiting the Constitution Center, on display in the museum's main exhibition. The 1823 Stone Declaration is on loan from the collection of David M. Rubenstein, co-founder and co-chief executive officer of the private equity firm The Carlyle Group. Several personal documents of Jefferson's, on loan from the National Archives and Records Administration, the Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and private collections, also will be displayed. Programs focusing on family genealogy and ancestry are planned.

Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello is included in the cost of general admission, which includes the museum's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, the award-winning theatrical production *Freedom Rising*, and *Signers' Hall*. General museum admission prices are \$14.50 for adults, \$13 for seniors ages 65 and over, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates also are available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

During the opening weekend of the exhibition, all visitors will receive \$3 off admission in honor of America's third president's birthday (Sunday, April 13).

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About the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation was incorporated in 1923 to preserve Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson in Charlottesville, Virginia. Monticello is now recognized as a National Historic Landmark and a United Nations World Heritage Site. As a private, nonprofit organization, the foundation receives no regular federal or state budget support for its two-fold mission of preservation and education. About 450,000 people visit Monticello each year. For more information, visit Monticello.org.

About National Museum of African American History and Culture

The National Museum of African American History and Culture was established by an act of Congress in 2003, making it the nineteenth museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Scheduled for completion by the summer of 2016 at a cost of \$540 million, it will be built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on a five-acre tract adjacent to the Washington Monument. Currently, during the construction phase, the museum is producing publications, hosting public programs, and assembling collections. It is presenting exhibitions at other museums across the country and at its own gallery at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. For more information, visit nmaahc.si.edu.

About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America's Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the Museum of We the People, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to "disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis," the National Constitution Center serves as a Headquarters for Civic Education—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As America's Town Hall, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.